Boards of Educational/Technical Institutions in Mumbai

1155. SHRI R.K. KUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the boards of many Educational/Technical Institutions of Mumbai there is a provision for nominees of the Central Government;

(b) if so, the names of each of these institutions where there is vacancy for such members; and

(c) when the Central Government propose to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Relics of Buddha

1156. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) authorities have declined the demands of the researchers and others to display the relics of the Buddha lying at the ASI office at Bhubaneswar; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) and (b) These important relics of the Buddha are kept in the safe costody of the Archaeological Survey of India, Bhubaneswar. They are not subject to regular display for security reasons and in view of their extremely delicate and fragile condition.

Construction of Girls Hostels

1157. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal for release of funds for constructing girls hostels in nine Muslim dominated districts;

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been considered;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) to (d) A proposal was received in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Education from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for sanction of grant-in-aid for construction of 9 hostels for girls under the Area Intensive Programme for Educationally Backward Minorities. Five of the proposed hostels were found to be earmarked for areas not identified as minority concentration areas. The proposal was accordingly revised by the Government of Uttar Pradesh to seek grant-in-aid for construction of 4 hostels for girls. The proposal has been considered and approved by the Grant-in-aid Committee.

Review of NLP

1158. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether government have reviewed the implementation and achievements under the National Literacy Policy/ Programme in various States during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, indicating the areas which need special attention/focus;

(c) the details of fresh initiative taken/ proposed to recast the national policy and programmes taken thereunder for speedy implementation of the target; and

(d) the details of the action plan finalised for the current year and funds made available thereunder, State-wise in general, and Maharashtra in particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) The department of Education had constituted an Expert Group under the chairmanship of Prof. Arun Ghosh for conducting Status-cum-impact evaluation of Total Literacy campaigns in the country. The strengths noted by the Expert Group are as folows:

—It is more of a movement than a programme.

—There has been an overwhelming impact on women.

—Total Literacy Campaigns have led to a positive impact on caste and communal relations.

—The Literacy movement has generated a demand for primary education.

—Literarcy campaigns have activated concern for developing a just and humane society.

—They have led to sensitization of the bureaucracy.

—The launching of literacy campaigns has placed literacy on the national agenda.

The weaknesses noted are:

—The quality of teaching has suffered in some places where there has been excessive pre-occupation with literacy skills alone.

—Fragile literacy skills need to be consolidated through more effective post literacy measures.

—Some campaigns have been launched without adequate preparations.

—Progress of literacy has been rather slow in urban areas.

Some of the steps taken to strengthen and improve literacy programmes are:

—State Governments requested to draw up a time-bound action plan for bringing uncovered districts under total/post literacy campaigns.

—Measures initiated to increase the motivation of volunteers engaged in literacy campaigns through recognition and appreciation of their efforts.

—Panchayati Raj Institutions being involved more intimately in implementation of literacy campaigns.

—Stress laid on reinforcing linkages between the literacy progrmme and other development programmes.

—Decentralisation and delegation of authority to State Governments for implementation of literacy programmes by establishment of state Literacy Missions.

—Guidelines laid down by National Literacy Mission to revamp and strengthen monitoring and evaluation mechanism. State directorates of Adult Education to closely monitor the literacy programmes by holding monthly monitoring meetings with the Secretaries of Zia Saksharata Samitis.

—Concurrent evaluation of literacy programmes is being regorously enforced for identifying shortcomings in the implementation and initiating timely corrective measures.

(d) No State-wise allocation of funds is made. The funds are sanctioned to various organisations/Zilla Saksharata Samitis/States based on individual projects. The financial allocation for the current year for the Adult Education Programme is Rs.107.00 crores.